



Pesticide and Noxious Weed Newsletter

Summer 2005

Nebraska Department of Agriculture

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Important Points to Remember for Soybean Rust Fungicide Applications

Due to the discovery of Asian soybean rust (SBR) in the U.S., the Nebraska Department of Agriculture's (NDA's) Pesticide Program has been very busy preparing for the emergency use of several fungicides. Currently, there are 15 fungicides approved by EPA for use in 2005. A current list of approved SBR fungicides can be found at www.agr.ne.gov. Then go to the "Plant Industry." NDA submitted a request to EPA for an additional nine fungicides in hopes that adequate and effective products would be available in time to battle the disease.

Due to the complexity of the issues surrounding SBR, there are some things you should be aware of as possible retailers or users of the SBR fungicides.

1. The emergency exemption allowing use of unregistered fungicides is classified as a quarantine exemption, and as such, allows for the use of the products for three years, rather than one year as in most other emergency exemptions.
2. There are two different types of distribution permits. The chemical manufacturers will have a permit allowing them to distribute and sell in Nebraska, while all retail dealers and ag plant commercial applicators will receive a permit by direct mail from NDA that will notify them of their responsibility to use the products.
3. Because nearly all of the emergency use fungicides are unregistered, EPA has required language to the labels that require additional protection of water resources and endangered species.

PLEASE read the label and pay attention to these additional protective restrictions.

Example language from two labels follows: Headline SBR: "This product has the potential for runoff for several months after application. . . . Runoff of this product will be reduced by avoiding applications when rainfall is forecasted to occur within 48 hours. DO NOT apply when weather conditions favor drift from treated areas to non-target aquatic habitats.

To determine whether your county has endangered aquatic species, consult the County Bulletins at <http://www.epa.gov/espp/usa-map.htm>."

Domark 230 ME: "In order to reduce concern for reproductive effects to endangered bird species which may occur incidentally in soybean growing areas, you are required to ascertain through the state department of agriculture, or other appropriate agency, whether the treatment area may contain habitat of federally listed bird species; if so, treatment must be avoided in these areas."

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Got a question about:

- Which pesticide applicator license type you need.
- Scheduling an NDA certification exam.
- Recertification options (locations, dates).
- Your certification status.

Calling from anywhere in the state, you can now ask your certification questions at no cost to you by calling NDA's new 800 number at 877-800-4080. For calls not related to certification, please use (402) 471-2394.

NDA Receives Grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust

NDA is pleased to announce that it will receive \$83,333 annually for three years from the Nebraska Environmental Trust for the Nebraska Noxious and Invasive Weed Initiative. The Trust Board announced funding for the project at its meeting on April 7 in Lincoln. The Nebraska Noxious and Invasive Weed Initiative is one of the 72 projects receiving \$9,046,319 in lottery proceeds this year from the Nebraska Environmental Trust.

Noxious and invasive weeds (NIWs) are not native to Nebraska or the United States. They have no natural enemies to keep them in check. These plants compete for water and nutrients in grain crops and native grasslands throughout the state. NIWs also compete with native plants reducing the diversity of wildlife habitat.

NIWs are detrimental to Nebraska's agriculture, water quality, wildlife, and recreation. Coordinated control measures across a large geographical area will alleviate some of the financial burden on private landowners in a control area. This concept will require participation from private and public landowners and managers, and allow participants to pool their resources and proceed in a coordinated manner in a large control area. Funding from the Nebraska Environmental Trust will be used by the Noxious Weed Initiative to coordinate control measures across several counties and Weed Management Areas to work toward a common goal and outcome. All 93 Nebraska counties will have the potential to participate and benefit from the project.

Guidelines are currently being developed with a call for proposals disseminated July 1, 2005, deadline for submission of proposals to NDA by October 1, 2005. Approved proposals will be awarded January 15, 2006.

The Nebraska Legislature created the Nebraska Environmental Trust in

1992. Using revenue from the Nebraska Lottery, the Trust has provided grants to 790 projects across the state. Any citizens, organizations, communities, farmers, and businesses can apply for funding to protect habitat, improve water quality, and establish recycling programs in Nebraska. The Nebraska Environmental Trust (see www.environmentaltrust.org) works to preserve, protect, and restore our natural resources for future generations.

Electronic Notification System

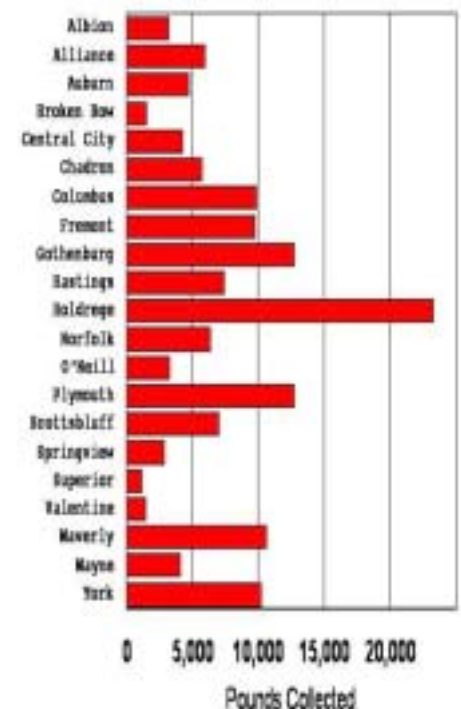
Currently, 678 subscribers are taking advantage of NDA's electronic notification system for this newsletter. This consists of an e-mail message informing you when the latest edition of the newsletter has been posted on our web site. Most of our subscribers are local, state, federal, and university personnel from Nebraska and other states. A few dealers and commercial/noncommercial applicators have also requested the newsletter in this format; however, there is a lot of room for expansion! In addition, there is a large number of certified private applicators that don't currently receive the newsletter but could be taking advantage of this information. Please feel free to pass your newsletter along to others if you think they would benefit.

Subscribing is simple: Go to the Pesticide and Noxious Weed Newsletter page at www.agr.ne.gov/division/bpi/pstnx/news.htm, and follow the instructions (or go to www.agr.ne.gov, then click "Plant Industry," then "Pesticide Program," then "Pesticide & Noxious Weed Newsletter"). If you currently receive a hard copy, please include enough information (name, address, license #) in your request so we can remove you from the hard copy mailing list.

2005 Waste Pesticide Collection Program Results

NDA, along with its many partners and cooperators, held another successful waste pesticide collection program in 2005. From March 14th through April 14th, 21 sites across the state were available for Nebraska residents to get rid of unusable or unwanted pesticide products. This year, approximately 150,000 pounds of material was collected (see chart below for individual site totals), bringing the total for this program over the last 11 years to over 2.1 million pounds — that's 1,000 tons!

Thanks to everyone who has made this program a success, including the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, the Nebraska Agri-Business Association, the University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. More information about this year's and previous programs can be found at the pesticide program's main page at www.agr.ne.gov/division/bpi/pes/pest1.htm.



Personal Protective Equipment for Ornamental and Turf Applicators

Many pesticide labels, including those with ornamental and turf uses, increasingly include specific wording regarding Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements. Kevin Holdorf, NDA's pesticide field inspector in the Omaha area, offers these comments: "For the Use Observations I have completed in the last two weeks, 66% of the applicators are not compliant with the PPE requirements on the label."

"As an inspector, the first thing I notice and inspect is the applicator's PPE. As a former lawn care applicator, I understand that wearing long-sleeve shirts, pants, goggles, chemical-resistant gloves, and boots can be very hot and uncomfortable, but I have also seen what not wearing them can do to the applicator. I have known applicators who have suffered eye damage, chemical burns, and other adverse health effects because they did not wear protective clothing. I take PPE very seriously, and I will be looking for the applicator to be wearing the PPE listed on the label of the product they are using."

While most of today's pesticides aren't as acutely toxic to humans as those in the past, they are still poisons with potential health effects. Those who pay attention to the initial certification material and subsequent recertification videos will remember the risk equation:

Hazard = Toxicity x Exposure;

where **Hazard** is the risk of harmful effects from pesticides. Hazard depends on both the **toxicity** of the pesticide and your **exposure** (see the web link at the end of this article for more information on this topic). The hazard from one exposure may not equal instant death or even sickness, but depending on the active ingredient and the individual, repeated exposures often add up to an increased risk of

getting a variety of ailments. There are four ways for your body to be exposed to pesticides: oral exposure (when you swallow a pesticide), inhalation exposure (when you inhale a pesticide), ocular exposure (when you get a pesticide in your eyes), or dermal exposure (when you get a pesticide on your skin). PPE is intended to reduce your exposure through these pathways. This reduces potential health effects, whether they are acute (occurring after one exposure) or chronic (occurring after repeated exposures).

Two examples of label language from common lawn care products follow:

- Trimec 992 EPA Reg. #2217-656, (Dicamba, MCPP, and 2,4-D). Applicators and other handlers who handle this pesticide for any use NOT covered by the Worker Protection Standard . . . must wear the following: Wear face shield or goggles when mixing, loading, or applying this product. When mixing, loading, or applying this product, wear long-sleeved shirt, long pants, socks, shoes, chemical-resistant gloves, and eye protection. It is recommended that safety glasses include front, brow, and temple protection.
- Eagle 20EW EPA Reg. #62719-463, (myclobutanil). Applicators and other handlers must wear: Long-sleeved shirt and pants, chemical-resistant gloves, made from waterproof material, and shoes plus socks.

In addition, there are other recommendations found on many labels that are intended to reduce your exposure to the products you use:

- Wash hands before eating, drinking, chewing gum, using tobacco, or using the toilet.
- After handling this product, immediately remove PPE, wash yourself thoroughly, and change into clean clothing.
- Wash work clothes separate from other laundry.

Regarding these recommendations, Holdorf adds, "It amazes me how often

I see applicators in the drive-thru at fast food restaurants. I always wonder if they washed their hands somewhere else or if they have a wash station in their vehicle. From experience in checking applicator licenses in the field, I can tell you that I have only seen one wash station in an applicator's vehicle."

Holdorf also notes: "Bottom line, the label is the law. There is a reason why the label requires the PPE that it does." For further information on protecting yourself and others from pesticide exposures, consult the labels of the products you are using, and refer to Chapters 6 (Harmful Effects and Emergency Response) and 7 (Personal Protective Equipment) of the Pesticide Applicator Core Training Manual (used for Nebraska's General Standards exam) at www.pested.unl.edu/pat.htm.

Pesticide Program Personnel Changes

After being with NDA's Pesticide Program since its inception, first as a field inspector and, more recently, as Case Review Officer, Dick Wiechman has left Nebraska to serve as EPA's pesticide program project officer in Jefferson City, Missouri. As such, Dick will be responsible for Federal oversight of the Missouri Department of Agriculture's Pesticide Program. Congratulations, Dick, and good luck!

Replacing Dick as the Case Review Officer is Herbert Bates, who transferred from the NDA Laboratory. Herbert worked one year in the Feed/Fertilizer Laboratory for one year analyzing animal feed and fertilizer for nitrogen, protein and nutrients. After that, he worked six years in NDA's Food Lab determining compliance with food nutrition labeling claims, testing meat products for bacteria, and evaluating foodborne complaints for contamination from bacteria and foreign matter. Herbert has Bachelor and Master of Science degrees from Tennessee Technological University in Agriculture Science and Biology, and a PhD in agronomy from UNL, Welcome, Herbert!

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